



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

HC

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/611,144	07/06/2000	Wolfgang Neuberger	BJA170A	5264

7590 03/26/2003

Bolesh J Skutnik PhD JD
515 Shaker Road
East Longmeadow, MA 01028

EXAMINER

FARAH, AHMED M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3739	

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/611,144	Applicant(s) Neuberger et al.	
	Examiner A. Farah	Art Unit 3739	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
 - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-11 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some* c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Art Unit: 3739

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4, 7, and 9-11 are again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chen et al. U. S. Pat. No. 5,800,478.

Chen discloses method and a flexible probe adapted for insertion into a patient's body through incision or natural body opening to provide photodynamic therapy (PDT) at a site within the patient's body. His device has a distal and proximal ends and includes a radiation source positioned at the distal end. **Fig. 52** of Chen clearly shows power supply (**450**), which remotely powers the radiation source (Col. 19, lines 26-29).

As to claims 2 and 3, he provides plurality of radiation sources (**104**) disposed at the distal end of the treatment device. He further teaches that these radiation sources include laser diodes (Col. 8, line 57).

As to claim 4, he discloses that the radiation sources operate at different wavelengths and a practitioner selects the wavelengths that are more effective in the photodynamic therapy of an abnormal tissue (Col. 17, line 62 through Col. 18, line 14).

Art Unit: 3739

As to claim 7, he teaches two different photoactive agents that absorb light at the characteristic wavelength of the light source are applied to the treatment site (Col. 18, lines 5-10).

As to claim 9, Fig. 14 of Chen clearly shows balloon (170), which extends annularly around the outer periphery of the treatment device (Col. 11, lines 32-36). This balloon would serve as a centering mechanism.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al. U. S. Pat. No. 5,800,478 in view of Mersch U. S. Pat. No. 5,468,238.

However, Chen et al., described above, do not provide a cooling means. Mersch discloses an endoscopic laser instrument comprising: distal end and a proximal end; radiation source (13) positioned at the distal end (12); and power supply (17), which remotely powers the radiation source 13 via electric cable 15. He further provides a cooling means (Col. 3, lines 1-5). Thus, it

Art Unit: 3739

would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify Chen et al. with Mersch and use a cooling means so as to cool the treatment site.

5. Claim 5 is again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al. in view of Berry U.S. Pat. No. 6,254,549 B1.

Although Chen, described above, teaches various types of radiation sources (i.e., LEDs, laser diodes, electroluminescent panels, etc.), he does not teach the use of chemiluminescent material for providing the treatment radiation.

Berry discloses an alternative treatment device containing a chemical mixture that produces energy at a desired wavelength capable of causing a desired modification to a human tissue (see claim 1 and the abstract). Thus, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify Chen's system with Berry and use chemiluminescence material as an equivalent alternative light source in order to generate the treatment light.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. Farah whose telephone number is (703) 305-5787. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Linda Dvorak, can be reached on (703) 308-0994. The fax number for the Examiner is (703)746-3368.

AF/w (Examiner)
03/24/03

Roy Gibson
ROY D. GIBSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER